



**December 2021 Issue 42**

Hello Readers,

Welcome to the Christmas 2021 edition of The Laura Standard. As we head into a very busy time of year, I hope that everyone is coping well in what is an unseasonably wet end to Spring. After making our way through what has been a challenging last couple of years it will be interesting to see what 2022 brings with the opening of borders and learning to live with the “new normal”.

After the success of last year, the “Laura Lights” will again feature in Herbert St in the lead up to Christmas. A working bee was held on the afternoon of Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> of November making the lights a real feature for our town during December.

The War Memorial project is very close to completion with the Gallipoli Rosemary having been planted and growing well we are now waiting on approval from SA Power Networks to mount a light on the nearest Stobie pole to illuminate the wall behind the cenotaph. I’m sure you’ll all agree that the area is looking amazing and will be a great asset to our town into the future.

The new “bin surrounds” project is also moving forward with a quote being accepted from Afford Engineering and funding having been secured from the Northern Areas Council and Rocky River Lions Club. The LCDTA is also funding this project and think that this will spruce up our town as the old surrounds are now 20 odd years old and looking quite tired.

If you’ve been up to the Lookout lately you will have noticed that there is a granite directional sign there now. This project has been driven by LCDTA member Barry Harvie as well as locals Geoff Lange and Ray Cummings. The sign was made by Northern Memorials, was part funded by the “Suzuki 4x4 Club” and the LCDTA and is well worth a look.

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Your FREE bi-monthly publication of Information produced by the  
Laura Community Development & Tourism Association (LCDTA) Inc.

Continued from page 1

With new members to the LCDTA come fresh fundraising ideas. The LCDTA has recently run a very successful "Meals to you" campaign and are planning another on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> of December. Other fundraisers coming up include a "Christmas Slice Drive" with 3 delivery dates being organised by Hannah Pech, Sophie Millington and Emily Alm and a "Gingerbread House" workshop being run by Michelle Goode on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> of December.

The Christmas "Party in the Park" will again be held in the North Parklands this year however for the first time it will be held on a Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> of December, due to the Friday before Christmas being Christmas Eve. COVID rules will again apply this year but let's hope we can have a repeat of last year's amazing weather and great turnout.

Lastly, a "Laura SA Community Notice Board" Facebook page has been set up by LCDTA member Hannah Pech. This will be not only be a great tool for our committee to advertise upcoming events and fundraisers but for the whole community to share relevant information about our area.

On behalf of the LCDTA I'd like to wish everyone a safe Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Thanks

Gerald Higgins  
Chairman LCDTA



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# Christmas Party in the Park

SUPPORTING THE LAURA COMMUNITY

SUNDAY 19TH DECEMBER 6-8PM

North Laura Parklands, Laura

**BYO CHAIRS/TABLES**

BBQ, drinks, fruit, slice platters and icecream available

**FATHER CHRISTMAS 7.30PM**

*Raffle drawn 7.50pm*

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**ENJOY A FUN NIGHT OUT FOR ALL THE FAMILY!**

*A COVID safe event, appropriate restrictions apply*

# LAURA RSL ACTIVITY REPORT-2021



The activities of both National and State RSL's have been quite subdued this year due to the COVID-19 restrictions. These restrictions have certainly affected the financial position of RSL's who operate under the Aust Charities and Not-for-profits-Commission, (ACNC). With the proposed lifting of the COVID-19 restrictions the Committee and Members will become more pro-active in the sale of RSL badges and poppies in the lead-up to our commemorative ceremonies of the future. The Laura RSL has managed to cope to the present by the legacy left to us by the Citizens of the district and excellent management of our Returned Servicemen and Women of the past.

Even though we have had to operate under adverse COVID conditions, there is always a good side to bad events. The good side being, due to Val Thomson's administrative skills and the LCDTA, we were able to have our ANZAC ceremony at the excellently revamped Cenotaph area. It was heart warming to see the district's participation and the light vigils in the town area.

Unfortunately, this was not to be the case on REMEMBRANCE DAY. When the extreme weather conditions were forecast on the exact time of our ceremony and the COVID conditions already in play, the RSL Executive Committee was consulted, taking into all aspects (and there were many, especially the Laura Primary School Students and teacher, also our Senior citizens) it was decided to cancel the ceremony and only lay the wreaths at the Cenotaph. We hoped, seeing the wreaths already laid at the Cenotaph, our district citizens would perhaps understand the situation at the time.

At the time of placing the wreaths the heaven's opened, umbrellas were useless, impromptu "ODE" was recited then we quickly retired. Even though this impromptu ceremony took place in such adverse conditions I believe I left the Cenotaph area a very proud person as I stood with the oldest member of our RSL, Jack Wallis (96years of age), remembering all his mates and friends who died for our country and who have passed since. The significance of Jack 'turning to' in such conditions for his mates is what our heritage and country is all about. It was an honour to stand with him on REMEMBRANCE DAY.

To complete the 2021 year our next function will be the RSL Xmas Dinner on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December to be held in the North Laura Hotel, an enjoyable get together for our Members, Affiliate Members and Guests.

**MERRY XMAS TO ALL.**

Keep the Flag Flying,  
Trev Mckerlie  
President Laura RSL.

# Dan VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN MP

Parliament of South Australia

MEMBER FOR STUART



*Wishing everyone in the  
Laura and surrounding  
districts a safe and happy  
Christmas and New Year!*



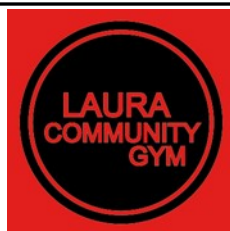
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**Please Stay Safe Everybody**



## STONE HUT CUP TROPHY 1877

Did you know that “picnic race meetings were held on Christmas Day, on a course just south of the township” of Stone Hut? Today that land on the corner of Horrocks Highway and Jamestown/ Caltowie Road is cropped. According to *A peep at the bygone Laura Days* on page 73, “the last meeting was held in 1919 when Mr Kotz was Secretary of the event”.

The Stone Hut community is thrilled to have in their possession a trophy dated 1877 from this annual event. The details etched into the pewter wine goblet are as follows:



“Stone Hut Cup  
won by Angus McDonald  
of  
TRURO  
in a hurdle race  
December 25<sup>th</sup> 1877”

Etched into the surface on the reverse are delicate fern leaves. The cup was manufactured by Jas Dixon and Son, Sheffield but was possibly re-purposed as the trophy. It was given to the Stone Hut community by his great grandson, Neville Wilkinson of Adelaide early in 2021.

Angus McDonald lived in Truro for a few years before moving to Caltowie, where he was town clerk for 52 years. He is buried in Caltowie cemetery with his wife. He was also interested in horse and dog racing and won athletics races in Truro and Caltowie.

### Yoga with Alison

The call out goes to all those wanting to start doing Yoga and those already participating in Alison's class.

#### Yoga class Tuesday Evenings

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## Lions Club News



The collection of sample grain at the Gladstone Silo Complex is underway with the start of harvest.

While the regular rain events during harvest are disruptive and downgrading to the quality of grain, the road-trains and B-doubles are busy on our roads. Rocky River Lions raise much of their funds for distribution to projects that benefit the residents of the Rocky River region.

Donations have been made in the past two months to the Lions Eye Health Program, the CranioFacial Association of SA and Care Flight. A new innovation is the providing of a collection facility at the Silos for bottles and cans. Proceeds will be in addition to the annual donation of \$500 that Lions donate to the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

It's that time of the year! Lions Cakes are now on sale at various points around town. Costs are the same as last year with 1.5kg cakes at \$17 and 1kg for \$13.

Lions members and their families wish everyone a happy and healthy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

# The Laura Soap & Gift Shoppe

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# Laura Bowls



The Laura Bowling Club held a very successful day for their Annual Men's Fours Tournament Cash Bonanza Day on Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021. There were 26 teams that competed and there was representation from a number of clubs- such as Quorn, Port Augusta, Moonta, Georgetown, Port Pirie, Auburn, Melrose, BHAS, Jamestown, Port Broughton, Crystal Brook, Caltowie, Laura, Brighton, Clare, Henley Beach, Whyalla Golf, Bute, ETSA, Port Wakefield and Maitland.

We are very grateful for our Sponsors- Golden North, Stevens Motors, Laura IGA, Ramsey Pharmacy, MGA Insurance, Perry's Fuel, Hunts Fuel, Lynch Saracino Construction, Quality Livestock, Quality Wool, Laura Meat Store, Stone Hut Bakery, Blackmore's Power and Water, Kupsch Bakery, Rocky River Ag, Pringles Crouch, Rowan Ramsay and Dan van Holst Pellekaan.

There were three game winners and the result came down to shots up-  
Winners- Ian Hatcher and his team from Moonta.  
Runner-up – Tojo Adams and his team from Moonta.  
Third- Gary Downs and his team from Maitland.

It is a big day for the volunteers who do a great job of organising and is renowned as a great regional tournament with a high calibre of bowlers attending.



## Laura Community Caravan Park News:



It is with regret that we had to farewell our excellent managers Chris and Alison after a few months, for family reasons. They enjoyed managing the park and their friendliness, attention to detail, tidiness and cleanliness were outstanding. However they have offered to become our relief managers.

We are so thankful that our dear past managers Mandy and Peter were prepared to take the reins until our new managers Simon and Naomi Purdue are able to take over in December.

In the meantime the park has been extremely busy as South Australians visit their own state.

The park has been presented with an Accreditation Park Award from the Association of Caravan Clubs South Australia for clearly demonstrating that they are Caravan Club Friendly.

Once again a great group of volunteers has assisted over the last few months erecting the windmill cutting wood, cementing, spreading mulch, soil and thatch and trench digging.



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## Food Glorious Food

### *Meals to You*

A big thank you to our 13 contributors for their willingness to prepare meals for sale and the community members who supported our first "Meals to You" fundraiser for the LCDTA. I have heard nothing but good reports from our customers.

The donation of each person's time was the key to our successful start. Though it was not expected / asked of them, a number of the cooks donated all ingredients and due to their generosity, we have made more than \$700 this time. People were asked to cost their meals and we found that we made as little as \$10 per meal tray if all ingredients were purchased. To truly value the time and effort of the 13 who prepared the meals we have decided that most of the meals will increase by \$5 per tray.

Our next list of meals will be advertised on the Laura SA Community Facebook and on the chalk board attached to the fence between IGA and the empty Laura Rose shop from Thursday 2nd December. Many thanks to Sahota in the IGA for allowing us to use his fence as advertising space. Once again it will be the 'first in best dressed' ordering system with orders closing on Wednesday 8th unless sold out sooner and meals ready to collect on Monday 13th December.

We have decided that we will have January as holiday time for everyone and our team will be back at work in February.

### *Gingerbread House Making Night*

Coming soon – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December and the night has been sold out. We are sure those attending will have a wonderful time.

### *Christmas Slices*

Also sold out!! Once again, 'first in best dressed' with the first batch delivered and the December batches sold. Well done to those cooks for their efforts.



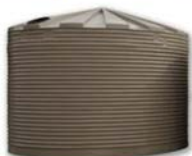


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## **Bridge upgrade should be a priority**

Urgent upgrades are needed to a more than 70-year-old bridge in the State's Mid North which cannot bear the burden of modern agricultural freight.

Member for Frome Geoff Brock MP is calling for the State Government to allocate funding towards the upgrade of the Pine Creek Bridge on the Laura to Appila Road which was built in the 1940s.

"The bridge, owned by the Northern Areas Council, has a 30-tonne load limit which means that agricultural, livestock, and any general freight to Adelaide has to take a detour along an unsealed road, which adds a further 5km to their journey," Mr Brock said.

"This impacts on transport efficiency and degrades the partially sealed road, causing ongoing costly maintenance for the local council.

"There is also the matter of driver safety along inadequate road infrastructure," Mr Brock said.

Vehicles travel through several Mid North Council districts to deliver their cargo, impacting farming businesses in the Orroroo/Carrieton, Peterborough and Mt Remarkable Council Districts as well as the Northern Areas Council.

Mr Brock said the estimated cost to upgrade the bridge was about \$9 million – a figure which rises every year the work is not done.

"I also believe that there have been engineering reports confirming the cost of the upgrade."

Mr Brock said all councils in the area wanted to see this bridge improved to accommodate modern commodity transport.

"And I know there have been pleas to the State Government, over at least the past four years, through Minister Dan van Holst Pellekaan, to approve funding."

Mr Brock said he believed there could be a solution to finding the money for the work by applying to the Australian Government for funding through their bridges program, which is capped at \$5 million, plus contributions from the State Government.

"I am asking the two major parties to provide \$4 million from the State. Regional local government could also contribute to the project," Mr Brock said.

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Northern Areas Council Mayor Ben Browne said he supported any attempts to upgrade the Pine Creek Bridge.

"It is a significant freight route and one of two identified in the Northern Areas Council district, by the Regional Transport Plan, as being critical for rural cargo transportation," Mr Browne said.

"Without the support of the State and Federal Government, Council does not have the capacity to fund the necessary bridge upgrades."

Mr Brock reiterated that Pine Creek Bridge was an important freight route for the Mid North farming sector.

"Its upgrade should be of equally high priority as recreational sporting complex funding," Mr Brock said.



*Photo above:  
Member for Frome  
Geoff Brock MP and Northern  
Areas Council Mayor  
Ben Browne inspect the 70+  
year old Pine Creek Bridge.*



*Photo right:  
The 70+ year old Pine Creek  
Bridge is showing signs of  
wear and tear.*



# RRHAS

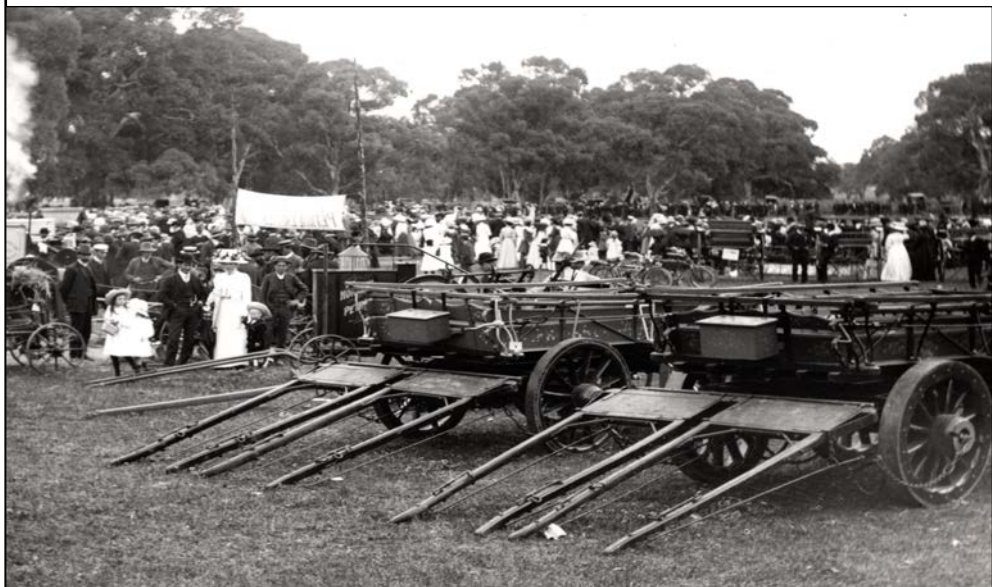
Rocky River  
Historic & Art  
Society

## **When Laura had a Show**

The season of agricultural shows in rural SA has just finished. The last two years have seen country show societies coping with the problems of Covid restrictions as well as their normal issues, and it is a credit to those who staged a show amidst the chaos.

A common query from visitors to Laura is the significance of the building owned by Ian White, just out of the town which is variously described as a hall or a church. But it was in fact the pavilion for the Laura Show.

Yes, Laura, did have a show, indeed it was the first to be held in what was known as the 'Northern Areas'. The first fixture was a ploughing match held on 12 August 1873 on land north east of the township. The prize stallion came from Narridy.



## **Laura Show September 1910**

*Attended by about 4,000 people many having come on special trains from Port Pirie, Petersburg and Wallaroo*

Continued page 17

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Subsequently shows were held on other sites including the parklands. In 1881 the showgrounds moved to the site on the road to Port Pirie. The new Agricultural Hall, or pavilion, was built in 1907 but unfortunately this picturesque site was prone to heavy flooding and the last show was held there in 1914.

The show then moved to the east parklands where the oval now is and ran until 1939. The committee of the Booyoolie Agricultural Society decided in 1940 to abandon the show because of the impact of the Second World War and an auction of assets was held in 1942. The proceeds were invested in War Bonds, and the buildings leased to the Commonwealth Flax Cultivation Committee.

The concept of staging shows was finally abandoned, and in 1948 funds from the society were earmarked to develop the new oval. The society itself continued with a committee which donated funds to local causes such as the hospital, war memorial committee (for the RSL hall) and the town hall. During the 1950s and 1960s it encouraged tree planting, providing trees for school arbor days, until winding up in 1975.

The shows staged by the Booyoolie Agricultural Society played an important role in the social, agricultural and commercial development of the community. Special trains brought people, livestock and machinery to the shows, and the state Governor visited on at least two occasions amidst great fanfare.

Greg Slattery  
Rocky River Historic & Art Society

*When Laura had a Show, is the first of a series of When Laura had a ....*





## Laura's New Directional Sign.

The Lookout has a new attraction.

Over the last few months a small group of dedicated volunteers have collected and installed rocks to support the black granite directional sign.

Recently the LCDTA project was completed when the granite sign was securely attached to those rocks.

The granite was supplied by Sav Degiglio from Northern Memorials in Port Pirie.

Last year the Suzuki 4wd Club visited Laura and made a donation to the LCDTA to support this project.

The rocks came from Ray Cummings property.

Photo below: Greg Cummings, Ray Cummings, Barry Harvie and Alan Thomson put the finishing touches to the directional sign.







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Thank you for your valued patronage throughout 2021 we wish you a festive, happy and safe Christmas and a very happy New Year. Kind regards Annette and Steve

*Christmas Closure 24<sup>th</sup> December 2021 – reopening 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022*



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To the members of the Veterinary Surgeons Board of South Australia.

I write both as the Mayor of the Northern Areas Council and in my personal capacity as someone that has had a professional relationship with Dr Geoff Warren for more than 30 years.

As Mayor I have had many community members contact me with their concerns in relation to the suspension of Dr Geoff Warren, the community support for Dr Geoff Warren is overwhelming.

Geoff has been attending my farm at Andrews for more than 30 years treating dogs, sheep, and horses he has always been available to provide professional care to injured and sick animals.

A few years ago, our 19-day old foal had gone over a fence during a thunderstorm the foal had been separated from its mother for at least 24 hours. It became obvious on Sunday morning that without intervention the foal would not survive. I rang Geoff and he came to the farm within an hour, he administered antibiotics and fluid by nasal tube saving the foals life.

Geoff's care and compassion for animals is truly remarkable in this day and age. I have been told of numerous occasions where people didn't have the capacity to pay or pay in full, Geoff would never see injured or sick animals go untreated such is his regard for the animals in his care.

Dr Geoff Warren has been the vet at rodeo and horse racing events throughout the area for many years on a voluntary basis. Without the support of Dr Geoff Warren many of these community fund raising events would not be able to take place, these events are a large part of the social fabric of our rural communities.

It has been suggested to me by members of the community that there may be a commercial advantage to be gained by other competing veterinarian practitioners through the suspension of Dr Geoff Warren.

Yours Sincerely

Ben Browne  
0419038474  
Mayor NAC

Copy to: The Hon David Basham MP – Minister for Primary Industries & Regional Development

Copy to: The Hon Clare Scriven MLC – Shadow Minister for Primary Industries & Regional Development - Shadow Minister for Forestry

### **Christmas & New Year break Northern Areas Council office closures:**

Gladstone office will close at

2pm Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021 until 9am Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

For the remainder of January 2022, the Gladstone office will be open for

**Mondays & Wednesdays only**, 9am to 5pm and for

February 2022 will be open on **Monday, Wednesday & Friday** only.

Normal office hours (Mon to Fri,) will resume Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

If the matter is urgent when the office is closed, please contact Jamestown office,  
phone 8664 1139 or email [admin@nacouncil.sa.gov.au](mailto:admin@nacouncil.sa.gov.au)

Jamestown office will close at

3pm Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021 until

9am Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

After Hours Emergency contact number during Christmas Closure period:  
0488 999 808

### **Flinders Mobile Library Christmas Closure**

**Flinders Mobile Library will be closing for the Christmas/New Year holiday break from 4pm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Re-opening for business as usual on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022 also the first visit to Laura for 2022.**

## **Advertorial**

Stewart MacFarlane moved to Laura with his wife Robyn in June after a long stay in the USA. They bought the old brewery. Robyn was a professor at the Savannah College of Art and Design, in Georgia. Stewart is South Australian born and has been an artist all his life. He studied at the South Australian School of Art in the early 70s before moving to NYC for more art studies.

Stewart decided to become involved politically for the first time recently in response to the continuing restrictions and ever-changing mandates imposed in the name of public health. Closed borders, mask rules, mandated vaccinations, lost employment and restriction of movement compelled him to find a voice politically. He chose Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party which will be running several candidates in the state election on March 19<sup>th</sup> next year. Stewart will be running in the state seat of Stuart and the federal seat of Grey.

Stewart's grandparents were the first couple to be married at the Wandearah Church in 1895. His grandfather came from a station north of Clare and his grandmother from Wandearah. The family continues farming at Wandearah and are seventh generation farmers.

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## **Laura Post Office**

### **To Laura and Stone Hut Residents**

Peter and I are extremely grateful for all the prayers, kind thoughts and get well cards received during Peter's medical ordeal.

I am very grateful for the community's understanding given to our Postie Michael during his first few days and early weeks whilst he was getting to know you.

I am very grateful to all the people who have cooked food, done shopping, walked the dog, provided budgie seed and helped with the post office external housekeeping and assisted me by helping out at our property in Murray Town. Special thanks go to the Caravan Park Managers and we are also sorry to see them leave. I also need to acknowledge all of you who called into the Post office, listened to me whilst I served you, thereby taking you on the journey with me.

Peter and I have always been staunchly independent and have never been afraid to ask how to do something but have never been people who asked for something to be done for us other than on a commercial basis whilst in business. It has always been we can work it out together. So it has been a difficult lesson to learn for me more so than Peter because he has not been involved. I wish that this lesson could have been learned upon a different premise however.

Peter's recovery will be slow and steady and when he is much better you are likely to see him in the Post Office and perhaps walking in Laura whilst he gains his fitness rather than delivering your mail.

If you are at all curious about the numbers I write on your letters they are your delivery run numbers and I use them to sort the mail for Michael to deliver to you.

After Xmas we will consider looking for a person to take on the role of Postie as Michael will be unable to do it for a long period of time, this of course is a great pity as he is very good and a lovely person. This brings me to put out the call that if there is anyone within the community that would consider this role they will need to speak with Peter and me. We will be putting the Post office on the Market in the early part of next year so this role may only be for a time until we sell.

Once again we say a big THANK YOU and wish you all a good and safe Xmas and a better 2022.

Peter and Felicity

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**Deadline dates for  
The Laura Standard:**

The Newsletter team, together with the LCDTA wish to thank all contributors for their newsletter articles and advertising. In 2022 please continue to forward your articles, along with a logo to lcdta5480@gmail.com by 5pm on the following dates:

**\*\* January 21st 2022 \*\* March 18th 2022 \*\***

## Contacts:

- **Council Office** Jamestown 8664 1139, 1300 664 108  
(Please Note: The 1300 number is only available for landlines)
- **Council Office Gladstone** 8662 2018
- **Dog Control** Garry Harris 0419 858 375
- **NAC Fire Prevention Officer** Gabby Swearse, 8664 1139
- **Manager, Regulatory Services** Alan Thomson 0409 286 542
- **Councillor Sue Scarman** 0418 844 935 or  
Sue.Scarman@NACouncil.sa.gov.au
- **Councillor Denise Higgins** 0428 222 610 or  
Denise.Higgins@NACouncil.sa.gov.au



## Finding a Justice of the Peace:

Barry Harvie                      8663 2187 or 0409 698 009  
Geoff Lange                      0427 632 334  
Jon Hawkins-Clarke              8663 2172  
John Stevens                      8663 2303

**Laura Community Development & Tourism Association Inc.**  
**PO Box 149 Laura SA 5480      [www.laurasa.com.au](http://www.laurasa.com.au)**

**Chairman:**                      **Gerald Higgins      0431 754 429**

**Secretary:**                      **Darren Pech          0429 705 520**

Laura Standard Editor: Laura Standard Committee

Reports, articles and advertising for the **Laura Standard** can be submitted by email to **lcdta5480@gmail.com**

Receiving articles, photos and logos electronically assists in the production of the newsletter.

**Advertising:** Contact: Wayne "Stick" Gifford on **0419 816 976**.  
John 'Bugs' Cleggett on **0439 098 612**.

*As an incentive for supporting The Laura Standard with your advertisements you will receive your 6th advertisement **free of charge**.*

### **Please Note:**

If you know of someone who unfortunately hasn't received a copy of The Laura Standard, extra copies are available from the Laura Information Centre. Newsletters in colour can also be emailed to you by providing us with your email address.

**This edition as well as all previous editions can be viewed, downloaded and printed in colour by visiting [www.laurasa.com.au](http://www.laurasa.com.au) and clicking 'News'**

Please keep articles short and concise as room is limited.

This is a community publication. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Association. The Editor reserves the right to edit or refuse articles.

### **Laura Standard Advertising Fees:**

Full Page	1/2 Page	1/3 Page
H 19.35cm x 12.75cm \$40.00	H 9.6cm x 12.75cm \$25.00	H 6.32cm x 12.75cm \$15.00

### **Latest time to submit articles**

for inclusion in the **February**  
edition of The Laura Standard is  
**5pm Friday January 21st 2022**

## Waiting!



Can you believe that Christmas is here once again! Where did the year go? Yes, but, while Christmas is rushing up to meet us, it is surprising how much of Christmas revolves around waiting!

This is especially the case this year as we wait to see how the opening of borders goes and there is the waiting to see who will be able to visit us or who we can visit for Christmas.

That is before we even think about the waiting to open presents, the waiting for Christmas lunch, the waiting for guests to arrive (or perhaps sometimes leave). Then there is the waiting we do in queues or waiting for things to be delivered.

In our fast paced modern world waiting is something that we don't like to do – we get irritated or even angry if we can't have what we want now.

When it came to the first Christmas – there was a lot of waiting involved in that, thousands of years of waiting in fact. God's promise to send a Saviour into the world was made thousands of years before the birth of Jesus.

So imagine if you had been waiting not just a few minutes, or even a few days or weeks, but instead you were waiting for something that had been promised to your ancestors. Something they had all lived their whole lives waiting and hoping for. Imagine the joy that is released when that promise is finally fulfilled.

That is the joy that was released and continues to be released each and every Christmas. The waiting was over, the Saviour had finally come – not in some grand palace, but instead in the humblest of surroundings. God came down to live with the ordinary people. Right from his birth Jesus was making the statement that he had come for all people – even you!

Jesus also knew what was ahead of him – he knew why he had come – not simply to be born, but to die to take on the punishment that should have been ours, and then to rise to life again and break the power of death, so that all who put their faith and trust in him, could have the best gift of all – a gift that is freely given to all people (if they will only open it) - forgiveness of sins, and eternal life in a place where there is no more waiting, pain, sorrow or death! Now that is a real Christmas present!

Stephen Noblett (Pastor)  
Southern Flinders Lutheran Parish.  
0439 346 972